



# OREGON'S SENATOR JEFF MERKLEY

## *Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program Reauthorization Act of 2023*

*Sponsors: Senators Merkley and Crapo*

### ***Background***

The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) program is one of the most effective tools to bring people together and reduce wildfire risk across the West. In the first ten years of the program, CFLR projects treated and restored 5.7 million acres of forestland. CFLR projects comprised 11% of the National Forest System's treatable acreage and 9% of restoration-related spending while they accomplished 19% of the agency's total hazardous fuels treatments, 15% of the timber volume sold, 15% of terrestrial wildlife habitat enhanced, and 26% of vegetation improved. In addition, CFLR projects helped improve 1,000 miles of trails and maintain 25,000 miles of roads.

The bill is cosponsored by Senators Risch, Wyden, Bennet, and Tester.

### ***Key Provisions:***

- **Reauthorize this successful program through 2032.** A long-term reauthorization would provide certainty for project partners.
- **Double the project funding cap from \$4 million to \$8 million.** Increasing the cap will allow CFLR projects to keep up with rising costs and expand the scope of projects to reduce wildfire risk.
- **Double the number of CFLR projects from each region.** In the 2018 Farm Bill, Senator Merkley and Senator Crapo successfully doubled the authorization for the program, increasing the project cap will allow more projects to be selected in future years from the Pacific Northwest.
- **Reward innovation.** The bill gives additional consideration in the CFLR selection process to projects that use innovative implementation mechanisms, like stewardship contracts or Good Neighbor Authority, reduce wildfire risk in the wildland-urban interface or in cross-boundary contexts, and protect drinking water sources.
- Require the Forest Service to submit a staffing plan to accompany CFLR proposals.
- Include standardized monitoring question and indicators in annual reports.
- **Add a specialist in conflict resolution and collaboration to the Advisory Committee that reviews CFLR project proposals.**